

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request that the foregoing amendments be made prior to examination of the present application.

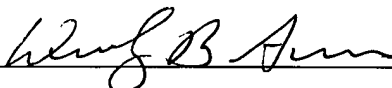
New claims 33-36 are being added. Support for chemical modifications of oligonucleotides, including phosphorothioate linkages, is provided in the specification, for example, at paragraphs 67, 157, and 213. Thus, the new claims do not add any new matter.

Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 16, 2004

By 

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Attorney for Applicant
Registration No. 40,893

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Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: April 16, 2004

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By Wesley B. Ames

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| Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper, or if a petition for extension of time is required for timely acceptance of same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 50-0872 for any such fees; and applicants hereby petition for any needed extension of time. |
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